

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMCONSUL BELFAST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1238

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SUBJECT: WEEKEND OF POLITICAL INTROSPECTION AND SPORADIC
VIOLENCE

REF: (A) BELFAST 116 (B) BELFAST 114 (C) BELFAST 110

1. SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC AND LABOUR PARTY (SDLP), UNITED
ULSTER UNIONIST COALITION (UUUC) AND ALLIANCE PARTY HELD
SEPARATE AND PRIVATE MEETINGS OF PARTY LEADERS OVER
WEEKEND MARCH 13-14. MEETINGS WERE DEVOTED TO DISCUSSION
OF FUTURE POLICIES IN ABSENCE ANY RECOGNIZED LOCAL
POLITICAL PLATFORM. INFORMATION FRAGMENTARY ON UUUC
DELIBERATIONS BUT IT SEEMS THEY DECIDED AGAINST DISRUPTIVE
ACTION FOR TIME BEING AS EXPRESSION OPPOSITION TO HMG
REJECTION OF CONVENTION MAJORITY REPORT AND TO CONTINUED
DIRECT RULE. SOME ONE HUNDRED UNIONIST DISTRICT COUNCILORS
ATTENDED ALONG WITH WESTMINSTER MPS AND NOT SURPRISINGLY CONCENSUS
MEETING WAS NOT RPT NOT TO BOYCOTT LOCAL COUNCILS (REFTEL B).
DEMOCRATIC UNIONIST REV. WILLIAM MC CREA IS HEAD OF LOYALIST
COUNCILORS ASSOCIATION AND BELIEVED DUP (PAISLEY) STRATEGY
INCLUDES MOVING TO INCREASE REPRESENTATION IN THESE BODIES.
JOHN HUME OF SDLP IN CLOSING DAY CONVENTION CHARGED PAISLEY
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WITH SEEKING INTEGRATION RATHER THAN DEVOLVED RULE AND PREDICTED

SOME LOYALISTS WOULD NOW ATTEMPT INCREASE POWERS OF LOCAL COUNCILS. CONGEN NOTES PARENTHETICALLY NEWLY-ELECTED PRESIDENT OF QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY STUDENTS UNION IS DEMOCRATIC UNIONIST AND THAT PAISLEY ATTRACTED 900 STUDENTS TO TALK ON CAMPUS RECENTLY. SDLP WEEKEND MEETING SMALLER COMPOSED OF PARTY EXECUTIVE AND EX-CONVENTION MEMBERS. STATEMENT AT CONCLUSION ATTEMPTED ALLAY CONCERN THAT PARTY MORIBUND WITH ANNOUNCEMENT THAT PARTY LEADERS WOULD CONTINUE BE ACTIVE IN POLITICS. ALLIANCE PARTY HAS NEW EXECUTIVE ELECTED MARCH 6 WHICH MET WITH EX-CONVENTION MEMBERS MARCH 13 AND AFFIRMED WILLINGNESS ALLIANCE CONTINUE INTER-PARTY DISCUSSIONS TOWARDS PRIMARY OBJECTIVE OF DEVOLVED GOVERNMENT. ALLIANCE ALSO CHARGED UUUC WITH DRIVING WOULD-BE INVESTORS FROM PROVINCE.

2. MAJOR HOTEL DOWNTOWN BELFAST RUSSELL COURT PARTIALLY DESTROYED BY FOUR BOMBS EARLY MORNING MARCH 15. IN APPARENT PROVISIONAL IRA OPERATION YOUNG COUPLE MASQUERADING AS HONEYMOONERS CHECKED IN AND, AFTER SUBDUING SECURITY STAFF, ADMITTED MEN WHO PLANTED BOMBS. HOTEL IS CONTROLLED BY IRISH RAILROADS CIE AND IS FAVORITE MEETING PLACE TO PADDY HARTE WITH MEMBERS SDLP. TWO MEN KILLED IN SEPARATE TERRORIST INCIDENTS OVER WEEKEND AND PROVISIONALS WARNED THAT USE OF REMOTE CONTROL ROCKETS (REFTEL C) WOULD BE STEPPED UP ESPECIALLY IN SOUTH ARMAGH. PROVISIONALS ALSO CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR BOMBING HOUSES ENGLISH CIVIL SERVANTS (REFTEL A). MEMBER OF ROYAL ULSTER CONSTABULARY, WIFE AND TWO YOUNG CHILDREN INJURED BY BOOBY-TRAP BOMBER IN FAMILY CAR KEADY MARCH 14. SPICER

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